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THE OFFENSE WAS MUCH IMPROVED FROM LAST SEASON. PAGE 28

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FILM

Seth Green takes a positive turn

PAGES 18-19

Community. Today kicks off the first day of the inaugural NYC Honey Week festival across the city, celebrating the growing number of beekeepers throughout the Big Apple with apiary tours, beekeeping classes, arts programs and honey-flavored foods. PAGE 02

HONEY OF AN IDEA

Asher Landes is one of the people who takes care of the bees on the rooftop farm at the Brooklyn Grange. / MILES DIXON, METRO

FASHION WEEK

The best looks, plus exclusive interviews

PAGES 22-25

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Today's tweet

"I can't make enough $ to have kids in #NYC. I'll have to dress them up as birds, release them in Central Park & hope ppl throw bread at them."

@maliagriggs

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 '"How I Met Your Mother" alternate ending leaks'

2 'Who is Julia Lemigova? All about Martina Navratilova's new fiancee'

3 'Ma Yan Yan performs stunning magic ballet on "Amazing Chinese" 2014'

Honey Week gives city beekeepers some buzz

Brooklyn. The first citywide celebration of NYC's beekeeping industry happens this week.

Four years ago, holding a honey festival in New York City was nothing more than a good idea in Chase Emmons' head.

Emmons, 46, said he wanted to see a weeklong dedication to honey in New York City that was similar to apple and honey festivals near his second home in Western Massachusetts.

"It's my baby, and now taken on a life of its own," Emmons said.

Three years after the first Honey Fest was held on Rockaway Beach, the full ideation of NYC Honey Week kicks off Monday and runs through Sunday. Events include tours of local apiaries, talks on beekeeping, lessons on how to infuse local honey in cocktails and Honey Fest.

Emmons is the managing partner at Brooklyn Grange, which runs rooftop farms in Brooklyn and Long Island City that produce more than 50,000 pounds of organic produce annually and is home to 40 beehives. He's been keeping bees for about 10 years, hooked ever since an enthusiastic friend in Vermont — an ex-Nike exec — got his own beehive and invited Emmons to come check it out.

Bees were re-legalized in New York City in 2010 after a decade-long ban. Emmons says the decision coincided with the urban agriculture movement to create a "perfect storm" for younger people to get involved.

"Portland has their backyard chickens; New York City needed something a bit more edgy," Emmons said. In the last few years, bees have become a "hip" but important pastime, helping New Yorkers who have perhaps never grown a tomato to connect with nature and the planet at large.

Not everyone who cares about the environment is in the financial position to buy an electric car, Emmons said, but keeping bees can "make a dent" in one's "food experience."

By law, beekeepers have to register their hives with the health department. Levi Fishman, deputy press secretary for the NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, said there are 99 registered beekeepers in the city with a total of 261 hives. Emmons, however, estimates the number is probably double that.

"They're so easy, easier than having a cat," Emmons said. "You just set the bees up and they basically do their thing."

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

Quoted

"Portland has their backyard chickens; New York City needed something a bit more edgy."

Emmons

Asher Landes tends to the bees at the Brooklyn Grange. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Visit **Metro.us** to see more photos of bee keeping at Brooklyn Grange.

The bee's knees

Valuable hobby

Chase Emmons said that bee keeping has a lot to teach New Yorkers.

"All these different things you'd never think of before all have to do with the food system as a whole," Emmons said.

More information on NYC Honey Week, including a complete list of all the events taking place, can be found at www.nychoneyweek.com.

Bronx

Man punches MTA worker

The NYPD is looking for a man they say punched an MTA worker in the face at the Fordham Road D train station last Wednesday.

Shortly after 8 p.m. on Sept. 3, an MTA worker was performing an inspection when the suspect punched him in the face multiple times, causing swelling,

WENDY JEAN BIDDLECOMBE

Brooklyn

Man rescued 200 yards off of Coney Island

A 19-year-old man was rescued by the NYPD Harbor Unit on Saturday evening after getting stuck in the waters off Coney Island.

Police responded to a 911 call of a man drowning at 7 p.m., according to the NYPD. Arriving officers found the man crashing into rocks on a jetty about 200 yards from the shore, and unable to swim away.

Coney Island / GETTY IMAGES

The NYPD said officers in a police rescue vessel were able to pull him to the boat.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Brooklyn. Officers nab shooter in the act

Two plainclothes officers who witnessed a Brooklyn shooting arrested the suspect shortly after the incident on Saturday, according to the NYPD.

Cops said officers saw Terrell Williams, 23, of Brooklyn, shooting at Damon Page, 34, of Englewood, New Jersey, at 7 a.m. on MacDougal Street.

The cops approached Williams, police said, who tried to hide his .38 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver behind the wheel of a parked car. He was arrested on charges of second-degree murder and criminal possession of a weapon, the NYPD said.

Page was shot twice in the torso and taken to Brookdale Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Photos by Jordan Matter

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Steamship becomes a floating library

Over the next four weeks, the 81-year-old Lilac Museum Steamship, berthed at Pier 25 on the Hudson River in Lower Manhattan, is home to the "Floating Library" — a space for people to gather, read, discuss and create. The only rule on deck is to stow your cell phone. "I think everyone is just riding the wave of beauty of being off land, in a different kind of space where your body negotiates the environment," said Beatrice Glow, library curator. / WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE, METRO

Brooklyn

Burglary suspect dressed as construction worker

The NYPD is looking to identify a man they say dressed as a construction worker and broke into a Bushwick construction site on Labor Day. The unidentified man used bolt cutters to enter the site at 330 Bleecker St. in Brooklyn at 7:45 a.m. on Sept. 1. He broke a window with a pickaxe and entered the building, police said. Nothing was reported missing. WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

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Jeremiah's Vanishing New York

JEREMIAH MOSS

www.vanishingnewyork.blogspot.com

Jeremiah Moss is the award-winning author of the blog "Jeremiah's Vanishing New York." His writing on the city has appeared in many publications, including The New York Times, and online at The New Yorker.

Summer touches fall at Hua Mei Bird Garden

On a Saturday morning at the Hua Mei Bird Garden in Sara D. Roosevelt Park, where the Lower East Side rubs up against Chinatown, the trees are full of birdcages. Half shrouded in white cloths, they look like Halloween ghosts, bouncing in the branches. Up close, you find that each one is carved from bamboo and contains a single songbird.

Many of the birds are small— colorful finches, a few black-capped chickadees — but the star is the Hua Mei, a fighting thrush from China for whom the park was named. "Hua mei" means "painted brow," a description of the bird's maquillage, an elongated white ring around the eyes.

Some of the birds have a chunk of apple to eat. Others prefer mealworms. A man walks from cage to cage, pulling worms from a prescription bottle and holding them out, wriggling, for the birds to take.

Socializing around the cages are the elderly Chinese men who own them. They come to the garden to display their birds and shoot the breeze. While the birds sing to each other, the men talk the way old men do, standing around, hands going up in the air, telling stories. Nearby, other men practice Tai Chi.

It's the end of summer. The air has shifted. Already, the leaves of the London Plane trees are brown and falling.

I think of a line from a poem by Lawrence Ferlinghetti: "Outside the leaves were falling/and they cried/ Too soon! too soon!"

JEREMIAH MOSS

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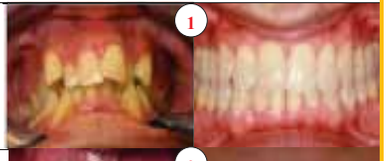

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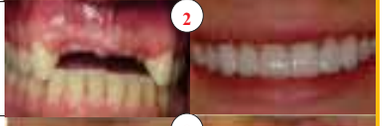

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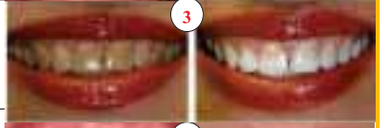

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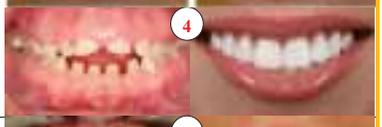

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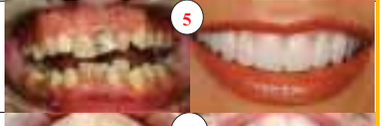

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Family, friends remember Joan Rivers at funeral

Career. Rivers was known for her raspy voice, and the catchphrase, "Can we talk?"

Melissa Rivers and son Cooper Endicott attend the memorial service at Temple Emanu-El. / GETTY IMAGES

Family and friends bid farewell to Joan Rivers, the outspoken comedian who became famous around the world for her acerbic wit and brash style, at a private funeral on Sunday in Manhattan.

Journalists Barbara Walters and Diane Sawyer, comedian Whoopi Goldberg, tycoon Donald Trump, actress Sarah Jessica Parker and comedian Kathy Griffin were among the celebrities who attended the service at Temple Emanu-El, a landmark synagogue on New York's Fifth Avenue where Rivers, 81, was a member of the congregation.

As guests exited the service to the sound of bagpipes, and some mingled and hugged, many hundreds of fans, along with dozens of reporters, photographers and television crews waited behind barricades to get a glimpse of Rivers' friends and family, including her only daughter, Melissa.

The sharp-tongued, Brooklyn-born comedian jokingly wrote about wanting an elaborate funeral. REUTERS

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Obama to set out his plan to tackle ISIS

Speech. The president on Wednesday will talk about going on the offensive against Islamic State.

President Barack Obama will explain to Americans and congressional leaders this week his plan to go on the offensive against Islamic State militants, who he said could eventually become a threat to the United States.

Obama said he will make a speech on Wednesday to "describe what our game plan's going to be," and will meet congressional leaders on Tuesday to seek their support for his strategy to halt the militant Islamist group.

"I just want the American people to understand the nature of the threat and how we're going to deal with it and to have confidence that we'll be able to deal with it," Obama said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" that aired on Sunday. The interview was conducted in Washington on Saturday. **REUTERS**

PRESIDENT OBAMA
GETTY IMAGES

Iraq

Air strikes target insurgents near Haditha Dam

U.S. warplanes carried out four strikes on Islamic State insurgents menacing Iraq's Haditha Dam on Sunday, witnesses and officials said, widening what President Barack Obama called a campaign to curb and ultimately defeat the jihadist movement.

Obama has branded Islamic State an acute threat to the West as well as Middle East and said that key NATO allies stand ready to back Washington in action against the well-armed sectarian force.

The leader of a pro-Iraqi government paramilitary force in western Iraq said the air strikes wiped out an Islamic State patrol trying to attack the dam - Iraq's second biggest hydroelectric facility that also provides millions with water. **REUTERS**

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Arrests made

Indiana woman missing for two months found alive

An Indiana woman missing for two months and apparently held captive has been found alive. Authorities have arrested two people in connection with her July disappearance, police said on Sunday.

Joelle Lockwood, 30, went missing on July 9 and was apparently held in a residence in Indiana's Posey County, the Evansville Police Department said in a statement. Lockwood had last been seen in Evansville before disappearing.

She was freed after a man visiting the suspects got her out of the residence and brought her to Evansville, where detectives interviewed her then went to the residence and arrested the suspects, police said.

The identities of those arrested, along with details on Lockwood's confinement and rescue, will be released by the Posey County prosecutor's office, police said.

REUTERS

JOELLE LOCKWOOD
FACEBOOK

NASA currently tracks more than 11,000 asteroids in orbits that pass relatively close to Earth / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AKIHIRO IKESHITA, AFP, GETTY IMAGES

House-sized asteroid buzzes past Earth

Found. Earth's latest celestial visitor was spotted on Aug. 31 by the Catalina Sky Survey near Tucson, Arizona.

A recently discovered asteroid about the size of a house made a relatively close pass by Earth on Sunday, flying just past the communication satellites that circle the planet, scientists said.

NASA said the asteroid, known as 2014 RC, posed no threat, though at its closest approach it was only about one-tenth the distance to the moon, or roughly 25,000 miles from Earth.

Communications and weather satellites are generally located in orbits about 22,000 miles above the planet.

"While this celestial object does not appear to pose any threat to Earth or satellites, its close approach creates a unique opportunity for researchers to observe and learn more about asteroids," NASA said in a statement released last week.

Asteroid 2014 RC is slightly smaller than the 65-foot diameter asteroid that exploded over Chelyabinsk, Russia, last year. The shock wave from the explosion, estimated to have had 30 times more energy than the Hiroshima atomic bomb, blasted out windows and damaged buildings. More than 1,000 people were injured by flying glass and debris.

Diameter

60

With a diameter of about 60 feet, Asteroid 2014 RC will be too dim to see with the naked eye, but amateur astronomers with small telescopes might be able to catch a glimpse as it zips by, NASA said.

The same day as the Chelyabinsk asteroid explosion, another larger asteroid flew as close as 17,168 miles from Earth, well within striking distance of the planet's communications and weather satellites.

The asteroid's closest approach was over New Zealand at 6:18 a.m. on Monday, which was actually 2:18 p.m. EDT in the U.S. on Sunday, NASA said.

REUTERS

NBA. Hawks' owner to sell control of team, cites racist remarks

In an echo of a scandal involving the former owner of the Los Angeles Clippers NBA team, the owner of the Atlanta Hawks announced on Sunday he is selling his controlling interest in the National Basketball Association franchise because of remarks he made that he says were racially insensitive.

Fans have a right to be angry about an internal email Hawks owner Bruce Levenson wrote two years ago about the need to boost attendance and how black and white fans differed in what they preferred to see at Hawks' games, Levenson said.

"In trying to address those issues, I wrote an email two years ago that was inappropriate and offensive," Levenson said in a statement released by the Atlanta Hawks.

His email to the team general manager, Danny Ferry, which addressed ways to boost the number of season ticket holders, delved into racial makeup of fans at the Hawks arena and suggested that Southern white men might not be comfortable in an arena with a high percentage of fans who were African-American.

REUTERS

LEVENSON'S ANNOUNCEMENT CAME JUST OVER FOUR MONTHS AFTER NBA COMMISSIONER ADAM SILVER BANNED LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS OWNER DONALD STERLING FROM THE LEAGUE. /GETTY IMAGES

Obama delays immigration action until after elections

Vote. Democrats could be hurt if Latino voters stay home and do not vote in close midterm races.

Central American immigrants await transportation to a U.S. Border Patrol processing center after crossing the Rio Grande from Mexico into the Texas on July 24, 2014, near Mission, Texas. / GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama reversed course on Saturday and delayed taking executive action on immigration reform until after November congressional elections, bowing to concerns it could cost his fellow Democrats control of the U.S. Senate.

Obama had promised in a high-profile White House appearance in June to announce unilateral measures by the end of summer if Congress did not enact immigration reform legislation.

But Obama said the surge of nearly 63,000 children from Central America crossing the border to the United States in the past year had made Americans wary of new immigration measures.

"The truth of the matter is that the politics did shift midsummer because of that problem," Obama said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press."

Obama said he plans to act later this year after making more of a public case for his actions, which are expected to remove the threat of deportation for some of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

A White House official cited partisan politics as the main reason for the delay, saying taking action before the election would harm long-term prospects for reforming immigration laws. **REUTERS**

Immigrants

11M

Obama said he plans to act later this year after making more of a public case for his actions, which are expected to remove the threat of deportation for some of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

Disease

Obama: US must fight Ebola now

The United States needs to do more to help control West Africa's deadly Ebola outbreak to stop it becoming a global crisis that could one day threaten Americans, President Barack Obama said in an interview.

Obama told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the outbreak, which has killed 2,100 people in five African countries, was unlikely to spread to the United States in the short term.

But he added there could be implications if Washington and other powers did not send urgently needed equipment, public health workers and other supplies to the region.

AN AWARENESS POSTER
GETTY IMAGES

"If we don't make that effort now, and this spreads not just through Africa but other parts of the world, there's the prospect then that the virus mutates. It becomes more easily transmittable," he said in the interview broadcast on Sunday. **REUTERS**

India

Modi visits Kashmir after floods kill 175

The death toll from serious flooding in Indian-administered Kashmir climbed to 175 on Sunday, with homes, military bases and hospitals inundated in the region's main city Srinagar as the Jhelum river overflowed its banks.

The worst flooding there in 60 years has ruined crops. **REUTERS**

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A new way to read textbooks in the digital age

Back to school. A new startup wants to change the way students purchase their books.

The beginning of the new college semester also means that its time for lots of grumbling from college students about the price of textbooks.

"It's a no-brainer that textbooks are expensive, but no one was asking why," says Kasey Gandham, the co-founder of Packback, a site that provides digital rentals of university textbooks. "Many people rush to the used book market, but anytime a used book was sold, publishers don't get anything — which raises the price of new textbooks. It's just a vicious cycle of increasing costs."

Packback allows students to rent digital books for $3 to $5 a day. "They are saving hundreds on underused books, while publishers are reclaiming lost revenue," Gandham explains.

Building the company

Packback was formed when all of its founders were still undergraduates at the University of Illinois. Working with Mike Shannon, Jessica Tenuta and Nick Currier, Gandham and the group came up with the idea while talking about books in 2001. "We started our junior year," says Gandham. "By our senior year,

The investors

Swimming in the 'Shark Tank'

The company had its public launch in March, and since then Gandham says they've raised a million dollars in venture funding. A big breaks came earlier this year when the team appeared on the hit ABC show "Shark Tank," in which small companies make their sales pitch to an all-star team of venture capitalists. Their idea caught the eye of businessman and NBA owner Mark Cuban, who decided to back the company with a $250,000 investment. Since then, says Gandham, entrepreneurs and NBA players have invested in the company.

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Packback believes that students who are coming of age in the digital era will turn to e-textbooks. / WAVEBREAK MEDIA

a typical day was that we'd stay up until 3 or 4 in the morning talking to our offshore team in India. We would have meetings in between classes or sometimes miss classes for meetings."

Breaking down the rental process

Here's how the program works: After students find the book they need on Packback's site, they will get 24 hours of digital access upon renting it. "You can highlight, take notes, read it on different devices," explains Gandham. "After 24 hours, your access is gone, but all of your notes and highlights are saved."

How students use Packback to study

Contrary to the belief that students spend all of their time on their phones and tablets, Gandham says the vast majority of users are accessing their digital books on their desktops.

There is one instance when Packback's users are rushing to use the service on their phones. "People use mobile to cram," notes Gandham. According to the company's research, 80 percent of its users have accessed books on their phone when they needed to in a pinch.

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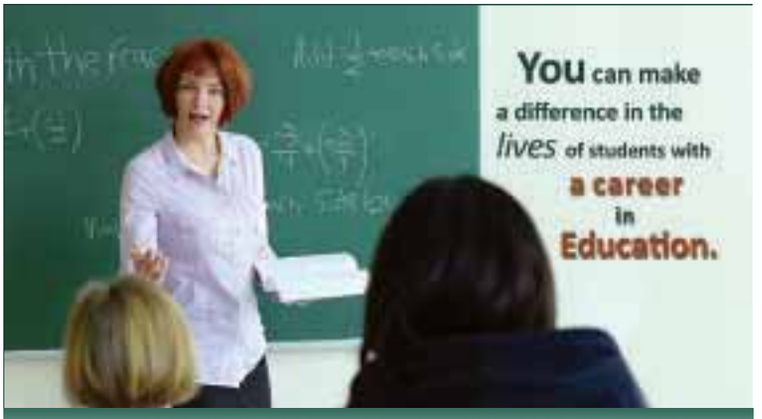

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Photo by Pete Checchia.

Is applying via video the future?

Ready for their close-ups

A new trend

While a handful of other colleges have added video components, Goucher is the first to give students the option to completely replace a written application with a video. In 2010, both Tufts and George Mason Universities allowed students to create a YouTube clips to go along with their applications.

Applications. Prospective students at one college are polishing up their directing skills.

Will the college application as we know it soon be a thing of the past? Goucher College seems to think so. The liberal arts college in Maryland recently announced that it will begin accepting video applications from prospective students this fall.

Instead of submitting a traditional application, high school seniors now have the option of creating a two-minute video in which they explain why they want to go to Goucher and why they feel they would thrive there. There's also an added bonus for students who go the video route: Those who choose to do so will not have to submit any standardized scores or a high school transcript.

A video posted to Goucher's YouTube channel touts the freedom that the new video option gives students. "I'm more than just a number," several students say on camera.

"So maybe test bubbles are not your thing, that's OK," says Goucher's president Jose Bowen in the two-minute spot introducing the Goucher Video App. "We want to know what you want to do with your life, what you want out of college."

Each video will be graded on three categories: content and thoughtfulness, structure and organization, clarity and effectiveness.

"The college admissions process is broken. The application process is complicated; it's stressful," Bowen told NPR when explaining the decision to try video.

Goucher College in Maryland is allowing prospective students to create an application video through the school's app.
WAVEBREAK MEDIA

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Simmons, left, is shown here performing with KISS singer Paul Stanley and a KISS tribute band at a restaurant opening in Kansas. Yeah, perhaps rock 'n' roll really is dead. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

1 You can KISS rock 'n' roll goodbye

Gene Simmons says rock 'n' roll is dead. Never one for melodramatic statements, the KISS leader complained to Esquire recently that the system has changed. "Rock is finally dead. I am so sad that the next 15-year-old kid in a garage someplace in St. Paul that plugs into his Marshall and wants to turn it up to 10 will not have anywhere near the same opportunity that I did," he says. "The death of rock was not a natural death. Rock did not die of old age. It was murdered. And the real culprit is that kid's 15-year-old next-door neighbor, probably a friend of his. Maybe even one of the band mates he's jamming with."

Quoted

"The death of rock was not a natural death. Rock did not die of old age. It was murdered." Simmons

Say what now?

Oh, right. According to Simmons, this whole tragedy is down to the fact that we as consumers aren't doing enough to support decent, hard-working record companies that therefore can't afford to support musicians like they used to. Shame on us. "There are still record companies, and it does apply to pop, rap and country to an extent," he explains. "But for performers who are also songwriters — the creators — for rock music, for soul, for the blues — it's finally dead."

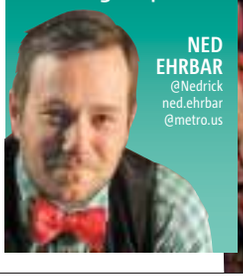
Wait, why are people still paying attention when Gene Simmons says something controversial? Whenever he opens his mouth and starts that big tongue talking, he says something controversial. The past year alone he's pissed off mental health advocates with his thoughts on depression ("F— you, then kill yourself" was his advice to people threatening suicide) and told the band Black Lips to "learn to speak English."

2 Stefani didn't exactly have No Doubt about Rossdale

Gwen Stefani admits that having husband Gavin Rossdale step in as a mentor during her first season as a judge on "The Voice" made her feel a little uneasy. "It was just awkward. We've only collaborated on making babies," Stefani says, according to Fox News, describing skills that probably wouldn't fly during a network prime-time show. Actually, strike that. (See: "Sex Box" on the WE network, or maybe don't see it.) The No Doubt singer was worried that she and Rossdale would clash over musical styles and tastes, which could be especially awkward in front of a national audience, but apparently she was worrying for no reason. "It was right at the beginning of the show and I was just getting my feet wet, so having him there was kind of rad."

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.



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On pop culture and prostitutes

MoMA. Parisian nightlife is on show in a new exhibit of Toulouse-Lautrec's printed works.

"The Paris of Toulouse-Lautrec: Prints and Posters" runs through March 22, 2015, at The Museum of Modern Art (11 West 53rd St.). Visit www.moma.org for more information. / ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The artwork of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864–1901) is currently on view in "The Paris of Toulouse-Lautrec: Prints and Posters" at The Museum of Modern Art. With over 100 pieces, the exhibition is drawn almost exclusively from MoMA's permanent collection of posters, lithographs and illustrated books.

Lautrec documents the cult of the celebrity and the rise of popular entertainment in five subjects: Parisian nightlife, celebrities, artists of the avant-garde, prostitutes and the pleasures of the upper class.

By the numbers

100+

Examples of Lautrec's avant-garde works on display at The Museum of Modern Art.

The famous Moulin Rouge takes center stage in the section devoted to the rise of nightlife culture in France. Cafe concerts and dance halls come alive in Lautrec's distinct style, characterized by vibrant color and swift brush strokes. His energetic approach arrests the star power of famous performers like dancer Loie Fuller and stage actress Jane Avril.

Lautrec was captivated not only by the starlets, but also by the prostitutes who filled the streets of Paris. In his Elles portfolio, he captured the kindness of call girls during nonworking hours. Lautrec's delicate renderings make his female subjects look gentile despite taking residency in low-class brothels.

The section devoted to his creative circle highlights Lautrec's position as an avant-garde master of his day. He designed sheet music for famous musicians, playbills for theater productions and satirical illustrations for magazines. Lautrec's oeuvre spans low- and high-brow entertainment, documenting a spectacular era dominated by the rise of popular media.

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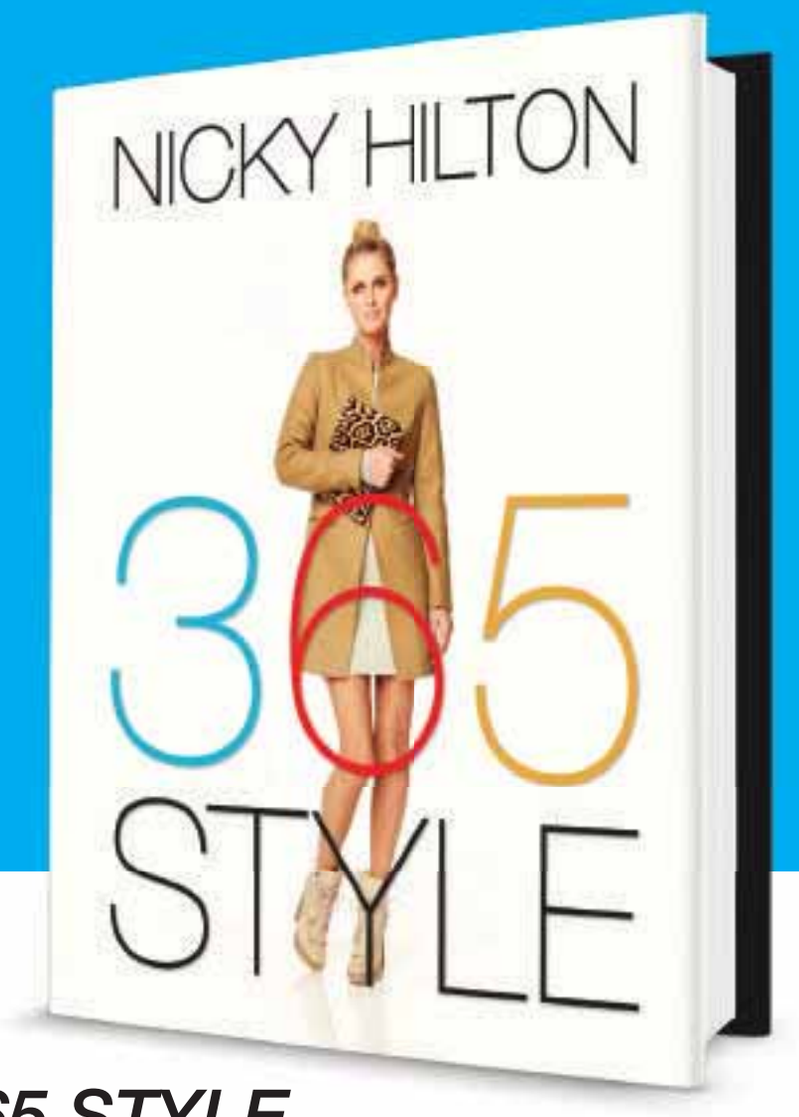

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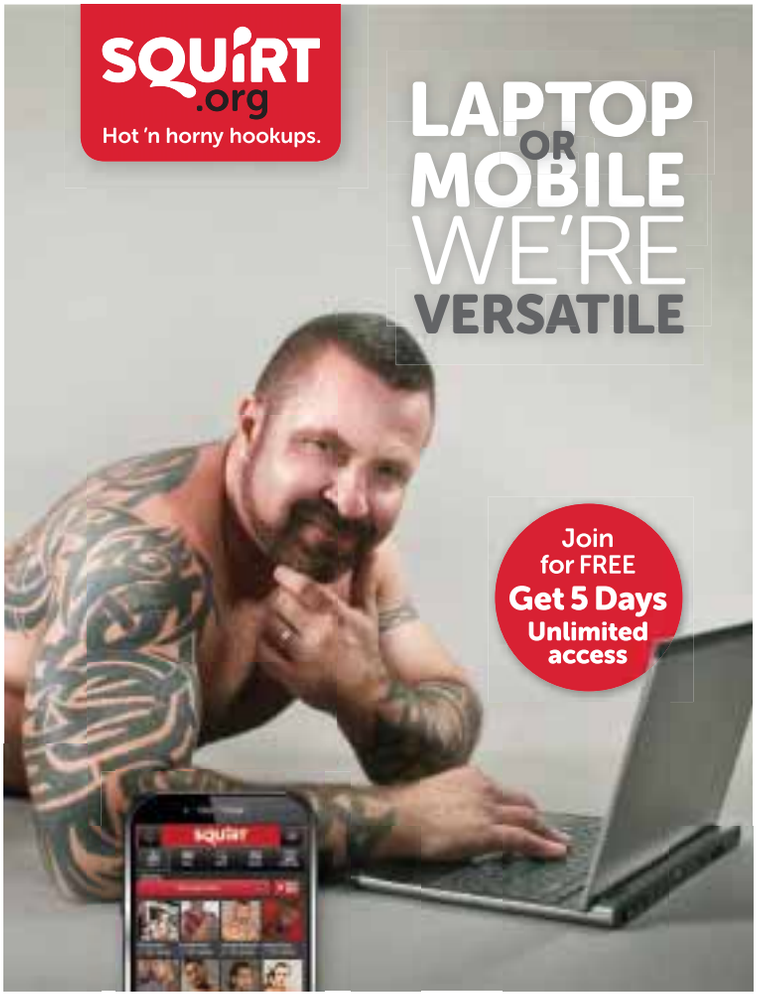

A nicer Seth

Seth Green gets to play the drums in "The Identical." / FREESTYLE RELEASING

Interview. The actor is really happy to be in something as nakedly positive as "The Identical."

In "The Identical," Seth Green plays the best friend of a man whose twin is an Elvis-esque musician. / GETTY IMAGES

Since he first started acting as a child, Seth Green has been a diverse performer. He may be mostly known for comedy, like "Robot Chicken," "Austin Powers" and "Family Guy," but he also spent three years on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (despite being cut from the 1991 movie) and regularly does serious voicework in cartoons. "The Identical" seems unusual even for him: It's a quasi-religious musical drama, in which he plays a drummer and the best friend of a man (Blake Rayne) who's actually the secret twin of an Elvis-like superstar.

You've played musicians before. Oz on "Buffy" played guitar. You're character here is a drummer. Have you drummed before?

Not really. My friend

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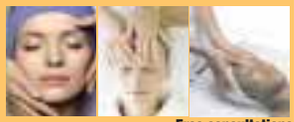

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Green

On comedy

"All of the kids who grew up with the incredibly sincere messages of the '80s have spit them back out as post-ironic self-awareness. Then that has informed the younger generation, who have grown up almost without empathy." Green

Breckin is a drummer, and when we were teenagers he showed me some basic things that I then continued to quasi-practice, whenever the radio was on. But I never really played the drums. I had a coach and we decided that instead of me learning how to play drums he would teach me how to play these songs. I looked at the songs like choreography. Instead of learning to catch a beat, it was like "left foot, right foot, hand left." That made it more accomplish-able.

Was music what really drew you to this film, or was there something else?
This story uses Elvis so it can create an allegory about nature vs. nurture. Blake spends the entire movie feeling like there's something missing in his life and he can't explain why. And then he finds he has a twin, and not only that, that he loves music and feels inclined to sing — that he needs to perform and doesn't feel comfortable unless he's doing his thing. This is a relatable story, growing up and feeling like your life is not yours. It's such a magical thing when you're able to chase the thing that defines you — when you do what you're supposed to be doing here. For me, that's acting.

This is definitely one of the nicer films you've done.
[Laughs] I do a lot of comedy stuff, and comedy by present cultural definition is somewhat cynical, especially in the last 20 years. All of the kids who grew up with the incredibly sincere messages of the '80s have spit them back out as post-ironic self-awareness. Then that has informed the younger generation, who have grown up almost without empathy. [Laughs] Just a very entitled, digital generation who don't know how to interact with each other in real life. It's a strange time. So I like being a part of positive things. This movie is so sweet and heartfelt — and all the opportunities it has to be trite, it's just sincere.

MATT PRIGGE
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Cha-ching!

His secret life

When he was 17, Green actually lived out the famous "Simpsons" episode where Bart becomes briefly popular for the catchphrase "I didn't do it." Green — who had already starred in the Woody Allen film "Radio Days" — acted in a commercial for the fast food joint Rally's where he said "Cha-ching." The catchphrase took off and he suddenly found himself super popular — sort of.

"It was one of the craziest things I've ever experienced," he says. "What I noticed was the way our culture defined 'celebrity.' There was this sensation created around this catchphrase that had nothing to do with me as a person or as a performer."

He was even flown

Green, in 1987 / GETTY IMAGES

out to say "Cha-ching" at a Saints-Raiders game in New Orleans. "I was 17, so I was still getting into a fair amount of trouble. I was still getting thrown over the hood of cars by police on occasion," he recalls. "Now I had two to six armed New Orleans police officers escorting me everywhere. They were giving me their cards and saying, 'My wife wants to cook the "Cha-ching" guy a home-cooked meal.' I was like, 'Man, under other circumstances you would be reading me my rights.'"

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PLUS

Eyes on the prize

Keep perspective

"If you're going off to college, every now and then remind yourself why you're there. It's such a great opportunity in your life; have a great time, but at the end of four years, you really do want a degree," Seigel says. You also don't want to stretch your budget and put off your career for an extra year or two because you lost focus.

Back to School 101

How to set yourself up for success before your first class.

Going off to college is the first chance for young adults to build their own lives. That freedom, especially if they're far from home, can affect their entire educational experience — for better or worse. We asked Dr. Warren Seigel, chairman of pediatrics/adolescent medicine at Coney Island Hospital, for some practical advice on getting a healthy start.

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Manage your new freedom by making your own rules. (No, we don't mean: "No rules.") / GETTY IMAGES

1 Security

Lock down your personal documents and computer if you're in a dorm. Even if you trust your roommates, you likely aren't the only ones coming and going.

1 Body

"In order to do well in school, you need to be healthy," Seigel says. That means getting the necessary vaccines (TDAP, meningitis, HPV and an annual flu shot) and adequate sleep and exercise.

2 Nutrition

Seigel sees patients return over winter break having gained "an enormous amount of weight." Be smart about what you're putting in your body — and for your grades' sake, don't go to class hungry.

3 Alcohol

Being of age for some things only means you might get into more trouble for breaking other rules, like underage drinking on a zero-tolerance campus.

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START A YEAR OF PERSONAL GROWTH

One of my clients, a high school teacher, gets jittery about returning to the classroom every September. Despite glowing evaluations year after year, she always worries whether she'll be able to manage her students, whether they'll like her and if they'll absorb all of her lessons. But each year, her nerves consume less energy because she sees them for what they are: habitual nuisances.

Sometimes it can be hard to recognize the incremental ways that we improve from year to year. As a society focused on tangible accomplishments, we're not conditioned to share our personal growth. When was the last time you bumped into a friend who boasted, "Great news! Last week, I conquered my need for my boss's approval, and today I didn't scream at my daughter when she spilled soda all over the kitchen floor!"

Yet these small personal victories — facing a fear, changing an attitude or kicking a bad habit — are the important shifts that build character and transform your life. When we change the way we respond to challenging situations, we change our experience of the world and how we see ourselves.

Taylor Swift, right, has every reason to be excited to take a selfie with Demi Lovato, who rebuilt her musical career after beating substance abuse problems. / FILMMAGIC

New beginning

As we return from the lazy days of summer to the daily grind, we may be looking at familiar situations through fresh eyes. As the unofficial start of the year for many people, September is a natural benchmark to reflect on how we've changed and rededicate ourselves to our personal growth projects.

Reality check

Point of view

It's vital to remember that while we may return to the same situations over and over again, we never return to them from exactly the same vantage point. Personal growth is like a spiral staircase: It may seem like you're going around and around, but your perspective changes with every step. The key is to keep moving upward. Some questions to consider:

1. How has my life changed since last September?
2. Have I changed? Am I responding to challenging situations differently?
3. How do I want to improve my handling of conflicts?
4. What is one thing that I might do differently?
5. How can I put this into action and make this change?

No Insurance Necessary

KIM SCHNEIDERMAN, MSW, LCSW

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Kim Schneiderman's new book, "Step Out of Your Story: Writing Exercises to Reframe and Transform Your Life," is due to be published in the spring. Email Kim your questions at askkim@metro.us.

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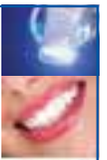

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Subversive sweetness at

Altuzarra

"Rosemary's Baby" is as much a fashionista's dream as it is a cinephile's: '60s shift dresses, little-girl nightgowns and (of course) Mia Farrow's icon-making Sassoon haircut. But for his runway riff on the film, Joseph Altuzarra eschewed such tired tropes. Instead, he seized on its heroine's kinky, subversive sweetness for one of his best collections to date.

The show opened with a series of seersucker skirt suits and dresses in angelic pink gingham, but with thigh-high slits and seams sliced open and held together with ribbon. Things got hotter from there: wispy sweaters with plunging necklines, peek-a-boo lattice leather skirts and tops, and sheer black negligee dresses. Rosemary's transition from naif to quintessential Altuzarra woman ended, however, in an explosion of romantic color and light: with delicate, wispy, crinkled dresses in golds and corals that communicated freedom, power and a confident sensuality.

RAQUEL LANERI

Prabal Gurung

Prabal Gurung kitchen-sinked it — for good reason, though. Inspired by his native Nepal — the snow-capped Himalayas, the "lush hillsides dotted with wild roses and rhododendrons"— the designer threw in every beautiful detail he could get his hands on.

Shimmering beads, ostrich feathers, intricate hand-painted lace and cascading ruffles all made appearances. Yet look past the melange of embellishments and another theme jumps out: the tango between the sporty and the feminine.

Black-leather strips toughened up breezy, printed dresses; sinuous shawl-like lapels softened sharp tuxedo jackets; and the finale of chiffon evening gowns had athletic tank bodices. Visual overload? Yes. But street-style stars need something to peacock in.

TINA CHADHA

Front row. See who we spotted at the shows over the weekend

Jada Pinket Smith, Coco Rocha, Uzo Aduba and Amy Schumer are nothing but smiles at the Christian Siriano show. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Rihanna rests her head on stylist Mel Ottenberg's shoulder while waiting for the Altuzarra show to start.

Solange Knowles, Zoe Kazan and Sarah Paulsen have all eyes on the runway at the Honor show.

Nicki Minaj and Lauren Hutton tentatively smile during the Alexander Wang show.

New York Fashion Week

Reviews

The designer:

Tibi

The look: City girl uniform

The runway: Amy Smilovic knows hip urban women want effortless — dare we say, comfortable — sportswear, and she delivers. Slouchy chic trousers, relaxed culottes with furry Celine-esque slippers, voluminous skirts with pleats and pockets, breezy off-the-shoulder shirts and a boyish gray-and-white stripped shorts suit are the kind of looks we expect to see on girls in SoHo come spring.

Insta-worthy: Move over, Pharrell hat; Tibi's topper riffs on Peru.

The takeaway: Pretty doesn't have to hurt. **TC**

The designer:

Wes Gordon

The look: Carolyn Bessette Kennedy would approved

The runway: Wes Gordon channeled '90s-era Calvin Klein for his polished, minimalist collection of long, airy slip dresses, windowpane tweed trousers and ribbed pullovers — all in a soft palette inspired by dawn.

Insta-worthy: The edgy chainmail-esque floor-length gown and effortless cream columns

The takeaway: Keep it sleek **TC**

The designer:

Lacoste

The look: Cara Delevingne on a yacht

The runway: Felipe Oliveira Baptista takes the preppiest of pastimes — sailing — and injects it with some model-off-duty swagger: sporty minidresses and oversized sweatshirts printed with regatta stripes, polo shirts and broad-shouldered vests done in sleek neoprene, and — best of all — windbreakers attached to the waists of jackets and shorts.

Insta-worthy: The set, featuring dramatic white sales

The takeaway: Baptista can lend street cred to anything. (Next season: croquet?) **TC**

The designer:

Dion Lee

The look: Summer Friday in the future

The runway: Australian breakout star Dion Lee traded in his signature body-con dresses for sporty, futuristic office attire. It wasn't all work, though. The minis with bold graphics and black numbers with sexy cutouts knew where the party's at.

Insta-worthy: The tough eveningwear with thick biker chains felt very "Mad Max."

The takeaway: More confirmation: Expect shorter hemlines and skin-revealing cut-outs. **TC**

The designer:

Suno

The look: Art-teacher chic

The runway: Finally, color! Max Osterweis and Erin Beatty opened their show with a series of ROYGBIV-striped sweaters, tunics and faux-tie skirts that packed a punch. Otherwise, the palette was kept neutral (dusty blue and sand) — the better to show off the designers' signature next-level layering (dresses over culottes, jackets over jackets) and pattern-mixing.

Insta-worthy: A handkerchief-hem dress featuring a mash-up of violets and geometric squares — way less bonkers than it sounds

The takeaway: Layering isn't just for fall! **RL**

Quick chat with: Rebecca Minkoff

What's the inspiration behind your spring collection?
Deborah Turbeville's work during the boho-chic era of fashion, [especially the] soft faded hues and sepia tones

What's your favorite trend for fall?
I'm looking forward to the shearling trend.

How did you say farewell to summer?
I worked on Labor Day — styling the show and casting models.

What was your main form of procrastination while working on your spring collection?
I was expecting my little girl, Bowie. Not necessarily a procrastination, but definitely something that I was preoccupied with! **TC**

On normcore

"I'm loving it — the idea of wearing sneakers and being considered fashionable at the same time is amazing!"
Minkoff

Minkoff / PROVIDED

Jason Wu

Jason Wu creates clothes for a lady, so it's no surprise that even the tough army-fatigue-like printed opening series felt buttoned-up.

Not every look played it safe, though. A sexy suede wrap dress with a deep V-neck and high slit added vamp to the refined, work-appropriate separates in white, black, navy and olive. But the eveningwear stole the show. Shimmering, beaded cocktail numbers and the two closing gowns, with their dangerously plunging necklines and exposed backs, will be red carpet/black tie gala fodder.

There were no new ideas here, but Wu's exceptional tailoring makes it easy for his well-heeled customer to update her wardrobe.

TINA CHADHA

Alexander Wang

Alexander Wang's girl marches to the beat of Diplo. The designer expanded on his sporty sci-fi aesthetic with searing day-go knit mini dresses (perfect for the club), futuristic corporate attire and neoprene-mesh bombers. We're sure it will do gangbusters with his cool-girl clientele, like Rihanna and Nicki Minaj, who were of course seated front row.

METRO

Visit **Metro.us** for continued exclusive coverage of NYFW.

Q&A. Palermo's must-have

Fresh from a week-long Australian vacation, we caught up with newlywed Olivia Palermo at the Marchesa Voyage for ShopStyle capsule collection launch.

What shows are you most excited to see this week?
Carolina Herrera — one of my favorites — Tibi and Michael Kors.

What fall trends are you looking forward to?
I'm really happy that fringe is back, because I wear a lot of it. I like seeing different designers' take on fringe, I think it's quite cool.

EMILY LAURENCE

Palermo / PROVIDED

Trending. What's populating the runways

Peter Som

Tome

Tibi

1. White

- Peter Som
- Marissa Webb
- Ralph Rucci

2. Braids

- Suno
- Peter Som
- Tome

3. Culottes

- Tibi
- Christian Siriano
- Ulla Johnson

Reviews

The designer:

Tome

The look: I woke up like this

The runway: Finally a designer's reference of India goes beyond the literal paisleys and lotuses. Ramon Martin and Ryan Lobo's inspiration — the country through the lens of contemporary photographer Dayanita Singh and classical dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale — transpired into their spring outing via delicate pleats on flowing skirts and sari-like draping on blouses. Bottom line, these are beautifully constructed clothes for self-assured women.

Insta-worthy: The structural taffeta culottes (a must-have) and voluminous pinstripe shirt dress

The takeaway: Pay attention to this brand. **TC**

The designer:

Nonoo

The look: Art party in Ibiza

The runway: Misha Nonoo looked to Brooklyn artist Dustin Yellin's dystopian-themed glass sculptures as her starting point, which sounds like serious stuff. However, the looks — mini dresses in optimistic shades and colorful prints festooned with ties — were perfect for a party, kind of like the one on the runway after Yellin, ice coffee in hand, sashayed down it in a halter-neck dress and ankle-strapped stilettos, part of the designer's upcoming collaboration with Aldo.

Insta-worthy: The hairy dude in drag

The takeaway: The micro mini is back. **TC**

The designer:

Honor

The look: Welcome to the doll house

The runway: Giovanna Randall threw a mod party for spring. The unapologetically feminine designer showed giddy A-line dresses with exaggerated bows, sweet pearl buttons and tiers of ruffles, which at times felt too doll-like.

Insta-worthy: The graphic neon fleur-de-lis printed gown

The takeaway: The '60s are still swinging. **TC**

The designer:

Christian Siriano

The look: Red carpet novice

The runway: After a restrained 1950s-couture-inflected showing last season, the "Project Runway" alum is back to his flamboyant ways: more volume, more embellishment, more MORE. Ball gowns had enormous skirts and raffia accoutrements, while even daytime looks came ruffled, tiered and sequined. Better were the slinky, unadorned draped silk dresses, which oozed sex appeal.

Insta-worthy: The sheer catsuit encrusted with crystals that closed the show, because, obviously —

The takeaway: Old habits die hard. **RL**

The designer:

Mara Hoffman

The look: Music-festival babe

The runway: Mara Hoffman knows her customer, and she's Coachella-bound. In her suitcase: skimpy patchwork dresses, multicolor-striped culottes, rainbow-printed jumpsuits and embroidered denim jackets. The baseball and Panama-style hats added the right amount of studied nonchalance.

Insta-worthy: A bandeau dress in a vibrant green leaf print

The takeaway: The Coachella look isn't going away any time soon. **RL**

Quick chat with: Wes Gordon

What's the inspiration behind your Spring collection?
"The colors, atmosphere, and freshness of morning light. The collection is a celebration of a minimalist femininity."

What are you looking forward to wearing?
"Fall, for me, is always about great outerwear. An amazing coat transforms not only your outfit, but your attitude. If you splurge on anything for fall, make sure it's a coat!"

How did you say farewell to summer?
"I'm refusing to say goodbye to summer! I'm in denial that it's coming to an end."

What was your main form of procrastination while working on your Spring collection?
"I discovered 'House of Cards' a little late and became obsessed." **TC**

On fall clothes

"Fall, for me, is always about great outerwear. An amazing coat transforms not only your outfit, but your attitude. If you splurge on anything for fall, make sure it's a coat!"
Gordon

Gordon / PROVIDED

Carla Hall dishes on making your dreams come true

Carla Hall, with "The Chew" co-host Michael Symon, began her culinary career in France. / DISNEY ABC TELEVISION GROUP

Ambition. The TV chef dishes on how she left her corporate job for a career in food.

It was a total leap of faith that led Carla Hall down an unconventional career path that took her from a steady job in accounting to being a co-host of the popular daytime talk show "The Chew."

After graduating from Howard University with a degree in accounting, Hall landed a job as a CPA at PriceWaterHouseCoopers in Tampa, Florida. Things were going fairly well until she had a light bulb moment while working with a more senior colleague on an audit.

"I looked at the accountant working next to me and he was folding the receipts very carefully so that the edges matched up perfectly," says Hall. "And I just thought, 'That can't be me at 40.' I was so anxious that two weeks later I quit."

Making the jump

Having been a model since her days in college, she began networking and planning her next move. "I met these girls who were going to France," she explains. Hall eventually decided to join them. In preparation, she started taking French lessons from the wife of a former colleague and then — armed with exactly one telephone number — she boarded a trans-Atlantic flight.

Figure out what you really want

It was in France that Hall discovered her love of food. "I was just looking for signs to follow my passion," Hall says. "I sort of fell into food."

Teach yourself the skills you don't have

Because she didn't have any formal training at that point, Hall figured out the basics of cooking on her own. "I was self-taught," she says. "I was reading cookbooks. I was very much like this generation in that the lesson was tenacity."

After returning to the U.S. from France, Hall launched her own lunch delivery service. "I started it as a fluke," she says. "I made a friend lunch one day and brought it to their office and they liked it so much that they said, 'You should make lunch for me every day.'" And so her business, the Lunch Bunch, was born. "I went door-to-door with sandwiches and soups," she recalls. "I did that for five years before I went to culinary school."

There is no such thing as perfect timing

It's important, says Hall, not to talk yourself out of changing your path once you've made a decision to follow your dream. "If you try to plan, you'll never do it," she points out. "The timing will never be right. You really have to take a leap of faith."

Stick with it if you really want it

"I didn't know how to wrap my sandwiches when I got started," says Hall. "I worked seven days a week. You have to prepare yourself mentally, because it is a free-fall."

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lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

Experiments in baking

The cookies

Hall first came up with the concept of her Petite Cookies during her days as a caterer. "The cookies started off kind of as a joke," she says. "People tend to break off a piece or a half of a cookie and then no one takes the other half. So I started to do these cookies that were so small that no one would break them." The mini cookies were such a hit that customers began requesting them.

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Horoscope

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Keep your plans simple, and don't take on any rigorous challenges until you feel ready. A little personal nurturing will help.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. A few personal changes will enhance your looks and mood. Keep an eye out for a job that could lead to creative things.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Be proud of what you have accomplished. It's OK to let others see you shine. Your creative talents deserve attention, so blow your own horn.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Recent events will open your eyes to someone's motives. Don't it prevent you from expressing how you feel.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. If you have been moody lately, it will be necessary to have an in-depth discussion with the person causing you grief. Don't put the blame elsewhere.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Make an effort to implement positive lifestyle changes. Focus on raising your income by strengthening your skills.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. A financial opportunity is apparent. Someone may be confused by your recent attitude or opinion. Have an explanation ready.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. A career change will help your financial situation. Jump at the chance to enter into a partnership that offers long-term benefits.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Problems will occur if you are too headstrong or persistent. Do your homework before you make an outspoken declaration, or you will have to backpedal.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Consider what self-improvements will bring the best results. You can learn a lot if you take the time to listen to opinions.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Make your own choices. Following someone else's agenda is not an effective way to advance. Aim to be more independent.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. A financial change is apparent. Take a proactive approach and show your leadership ability. If you hesitate, you will lose a chance. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	3		2					6
9					6	5		4
		6				8		
6		2	1			7		
1		9				2		5
		4			5	1		8
		5				3		
2		8	6					1
4					9		7	

	7			6				9
		6	8		4			2
		8			3			6
	8			1		4		
	6		5		2		9	
		7		8			1	
8			7			2		
6			4		8	5		
7				2			3	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Celebrities have no right to privacy

Re: 'Creepy hackers release creepy naked celeb photos for the Internet's creeps' (Metro, Sept. 2) We have to stop our collective hypocrisy and be honest and acknowledge that celebrities do not have privacy. For people like you and me, who cares if we fight with our in-law in the elevators? These are private matters, but not for the celebrities; if we have to know all this information, let us also know how they look like when they are naked or without makeup! Paparazzi is a well-known profession that does not respect our celebs' privacy. Who is morally depraved? Those taking naked photos and sex tapes and posting them on the Net, or those hacking the celeb's passwords?
JEAN KAZADI, VIA EMAIL

Blame the criminal

Re: 'Security works best by being smart about it' (Metro, Sept. 5-7) Letter writer Kim De Riel has the analogy all wrong. It's more like parking your car in your garage, locking the door, locking the keys inside, and then having someone break in and steal them anyway. Hardly makes the victim a "dummy," as she puts it.
AMY MULLEN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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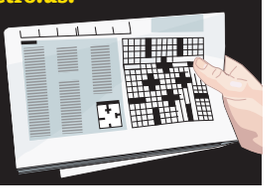
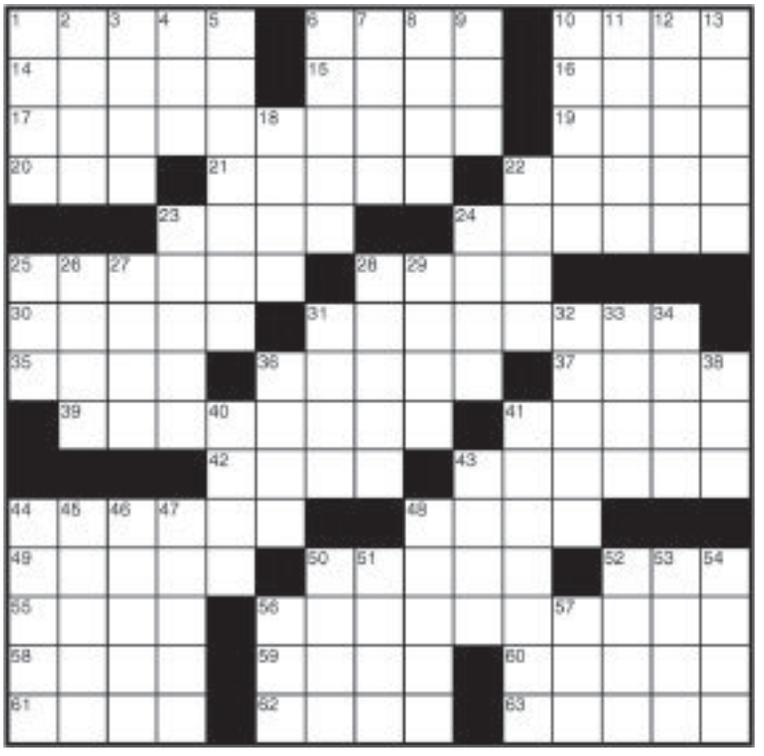
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



Crossword

Across
1 Enjoy puddles
6 Cheese by-product
10 Liniment
14 Vietnam's capital
15 Cod kin
16 Yield
17 Makes happen
19 Did a tapestry
20 Earth, in combos
21 Put out bait
22 Comforter stuffing
23 Waterproof
24 Dirty looks
25 Gold Rush town, once
28 Easter bloom
30 Historical period
31 Freebie
35 Delicate hue
36 — to the teeth
37 Festive nights
39 Cosmetic procedures (2 wds.)
41 — out (rescues)
42 Bard's villain
43 Lingerie item
44 Giza monument
48 Counting-rhyme start
49 Kid
50 Surfer slang
52 Tight spot
55 Travel choice
56 Chaucer setting
58 Large lot
59 Helm position
60 "The Pink Panther" actor
61 Into the sunset
62 Hectic places
63 Persona non —

Down
1 Layered haircut
2 Ornamental fabric
3 Aware of
4 Old French coin
5 Racetrack near Miami
6 Brief try
7 Mist
8 Just scraped by
9 Assenting vote
10 Hunting knife
11 Residence
12 Crowbar
13 Mike of "SNL"
18 Oahu banquet
22 New Age singer
23 Splinter groups
24 Toboggan
25 Jacuzzi feature
26 — — the air
27 Taboo (hyph.)
28 Bar dance
29 Currier's partner
31 Hot rum drink
32 Bushed
33 Eager
34 Bellow
36 Comet rival
38 Weathervane dir.
40 "— kleine Nachtmusik"
41 Obligatory
43 Paraphernalia
44 Scarecrow stuffing
45 Hippie greeting
46 They may be split
47 Cay
48 Sidles past
50 Port near Kilauea
51 Mock butter
52 Falafel bean
53 "— — Weak" (Carlisle tune)
54 Lawless role
56 Mexican poet Octavio —
57 Cosmonaut's station



Weekend's answer

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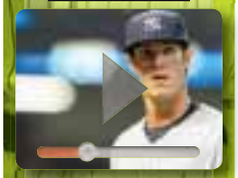
3 SPORTS

Derek Jeter Day

Yankees honor Jeter

The Yankees pulled out all the stops on Sunday as they honored Derek Jeter a few weeks before he calls it a career. Former teammates Paul O'Neill, Mariano Rivera, Jorge Posada, former manager Joe Torre and even Michael Jordan made appearances. "I've had the greatest job in the world," Jeter said on field. "I got a chance to be the shortstop of the New York Yankees."

Watch online



Find video and recap of yesterday's Yankees-Royals and Mets-Reds games at: **Metro.us/sports.**

Eric Decker, who signed a five-year, $36.25 million deal in the offseason stepped up in his debut. / GETTY IMAGES

Flying out the gate

NFL. Eric Decker looked like the top receiver the Jets expected in his first game — a Week 1 win over Oakland.

Eric Decker looked every bit like the Jets expected when they made him their big-money signing of free agency as the wide receiver led the team with five receptions in a 19-14 win over the Raiders to being their season on Sunday.

The excuse the Jets lacked weapons doesn't seem to ring true anymore, especially based on Decker's solid debut in green and white. While he didn't get into the end zone, he stood out as the biggest target in the Jets' stable of receivers. And the timing couldn't have been better.

ESPN analyst Mark Schlereth said last week he saw Decker as a "marginal No. 2 at best" and he didn't believe he was a top wide receiver. Decker didn't respond with any anger during the week but put together a solid performance Sunday as his rebuttal.

"I kind of put that under wraps a few days ago. I'm not too worried about what people say," Decker said. "The only thing I'm worried about is what my teammates think of me, what my coaching staff thinks of me. We go to battle together, we show up and work hard together. Their opinion is what matters to me."

Visit **Metro.us** to read about Antonio Allen's debut at corner.

Decker finished the game with five receptions for 74 yards as he ran his trademark routes and showed quick hands. Also impressive was his downfield blocking, including a key block on Chris Ivory's 71-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

"I was nervous," Decker said of his first game for the Jets. "But I think if you don't get nervous before a game, you shouldn't be in the locker room because that's just human nature."

KRISTIAN DYER
@KristianRDyer
sports@metro.us

Lucky No. 18

SERENA WILLIAMS
GETTY IMAGES

Williams routs Wozniacki for US Open win

To move up in the history books, Serena Williams had to put her friendship with Caroline Wozniacki aside while they dealt with the small matter of the U.S. Open championship.

When it comes to tennis, Williams is all business and she proved it yet again by ruthlessly dispatching Wozniacki, 6-3, 6-3, to win her third straight U.S. Open title, her sixth overall and her 18th career major, tying her with Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova for fourth on the all-time list.

After Wozniacki sailed a backhand long on match point, Williams lay on her back behind the baseline and began crying in celebration.

"It is a pleasure to win my first Grand Slam here and it's No. 18, so I'm really emotional," Williams said on court. "I couldn't ask to do it at a better place."

"Congratulations, Serena," said Wozniacki, who's yet to win a major. "You really deserved it today."

ADAM ZAGORIA

Season begins anew

Giants vs. Lions: Three things to watch

The Lions host the Giants on Monday night in an unlikely prime-time matchup, given the struggles of both teams last season.

But what the franchises lack in win production in recent seasons, they make up for in star power on both sides of their respective lineups.

Metro takes a look at three things to watch for in the season opener (7:10 p.m., ESPN).

1 Who blocks Suh?
The talented and motivated Ndamukong Suh, who's in a contract year, will face an overhauled Giants' offensive line already been decimated by injury. The interior of the offensive line is where Suh customarily creates his most damage as a disruptive pass-rushing defensive tackle. Big Blue will try to contain the All-Pro with first-year Giants center J.D. Walton, who has barely played in the last two seasons, rookie Weston Richburg and former Dolphin John Jerry. Good luck.

SUH HAS 13 1/2 SACKS IN THE LAST TWO SEASONS COMBINED.
GETTY IMAGES

2 Chemistry class
The Giants' starting offense has been awful to date, and of all the offensive issues, perhaps the biggest reason to worry is the lack of chemistry between Eli Manning and his wideouts — particularly Victor Cruz, who had minimal success in the preseason. With a new-look West Coast offense and lack of a real No. 2 option opposite Cruz to deflect attention, the Lions must be licking their chops at the thought of facing the still-broken New York offense.

3 Throw it up
The Lions don't have such offensive troubles, as they boast quarterback Matthew Stafford, who routinely throws for 4,000 yards a season, and arguably the best wideout in the league in Calvin Johnson. They will test a new-look Giants secondary featuring Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, Walter Thurmond and the returning Stevie Brown.

TONY WILLIAMS

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